

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 30 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 22 january, 2004

U of A students rank high in world debates

SHAWN BENBOW
Photo Editor

Competing against top debaters from world-renowned schools like Harvard and Oxford, U of A business student Sharon Ohayon couldn't believe she was ranked as the third-best public speaker in the world.

The University of Alberta Debate Society (UADS) sent a contingent of 14 people to compete in the 2004 World's University Debating Championships in Singapore over the Christmas break.

"It was an honour to be [judging] on the final panel with former world champions, and with some of the best minds in debate."

BARRY TANNER
POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

Ohayon placed third after speaking on the topic, "If Charles Darwin was alive he would be spinning in his grave." Aside from the obvious problem of being both alive and in a grave, Ohayon spoke for three minutes after having only three minutes to prepare.

"I spoke about survival of the unfittest and problems of monogamy and how that leads to problems in society." In addition to Ohayon's successes, fellow U of A political science student Barrie Tanner was ranked top Canadian judge, as well as among the top five

debating adjudicators in the world.

As part of being ranked as a top judge, Tanner adjudicated the grand debate final. "It was an honour to be there on the final panel with former world champions, and with some of the best minds in debate," he said.

According to Tanner, judges are ranked according to feedback from the debaters they judge, as well as from fellow judges. The ranking is kept secret, however, and Tanner said he did not know how well he was doing other than being good enough to advance to additional rounds.

Tanner said the highlight for him was when he went up to receive a plaque for adjudicating from the president of Nanyang Technological University, the institution hosting the championships. "I was in the parliament building and went up on stage, and I went to shake his hand, and he said 'I like your hair.' Of all the things to say to someone in that setting, I thought that one, for sure, was the best."

Arthur Tse, a third year honours neuro-science student, who attended the competition for the second time this year, said he knew what to expect this time. "I was more prepared and aware, because British Parliamentary (BP) style has a lot more strategy involved in it," he said.

BP-style debate differs from the more traditional style because there are four teams debating at one time, and while there are two teams per side, each team of two competes against the other three teams for scoring purposes.

PLEASE SEE DEBATE • PAGE 4



SHAWN BENBOW

DEBATORS CHALLENGE THE WORLD Sharon Ohayon and Arthur Tse.



SHAWN BENBOW

SINGING FOR INTERNATIONALISM Gabrielle Donnelly sings with Tim Smith on violin to promote International Week.

Int'l week to highlight global issues

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

International Week will commence this Friday, offering students a variety of talks, film screenings, discussions and performances related to international issues.

International Week organizer Nancy Hanneman explained that this year's theme, "Picking up the Pieces," expresses the need for action, reflecting one of the goals of the week.

"So whatever the issue is that a particular person is interested in, they can get involved and do something about it to improve the world," said Hanneman.

Included among the many individuals and groups slated to give presentations during the week are U of A political science professors Dr. Andy Knight and Dr. Tom Keating, who will give a talk on "Building Sustainable Peace."

Other speakers include Canadian

nationalist, writer and former book publisher Mel Hurtig, and former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations Paul Heinbecker.

Well-known Canadian journalist and political analyst Satya Das will moderate Monday evening's keynote forum on Canada's role in the world. Das, a long-time participant in the University's International Week, explained the importance of the week.

PLEASE SEE INTERNATIONAL • PAGE 3

eCampus to provide online education

DAVE BERRY
News Writer

Students across Alberta will soon have greater access to postsecondary education opportunities, thanks to a one-time \$900 000 grant from Alberta Learning that helped to establish the eCampus Alberta initiative.

The initiative will allow students who can't easily access postsecondary education in the province to take certain courses online from the 15 colleges and technical institutes involved.

"[eCampus Alberta] is a really positive thing, and it demonstrates how there is excellence in the postsecondary system," said a spokesperson for the Alberta government.

"Plus, this is going to be great for students, because there is going to be increased access to courses wherever you are in the province."

The idea of collaboration among the colleges and accessibility for students are the major reasons why many of the institutions involved, ranging from Keyano College in Fort McMurray to

SAIT in Calgary, got involved with the initiative in the first place.

"The project has been a real catalyst ... for collaboration between the institutions, in terms of trying to coordinate the development of these courses and programs online," noted John McGrath, a spokesperson for Grant MacEwan College. "It also increases access for learners. It really, truly is about accessibility, in terms of providing access to all of these online programs."

PLEASE SEE CAMPUS • PAGE 2



6 If the Good Lord had intended us to walk, he wouldn't have given us roller skates. Hallelujah! Roller rinks are making a comeback, and Kelly Zenkewich will tell you why. Feature!

Inside

News 1-4
Opinion 6-11
Features 12-13
A&E 14-18
Sports 19-21
Classifieds 22
Comics 23

Outside

Thursday Endure droicnats at 2004. snow, high 13, low 9
Friday cloudy, Let's Dance on Electric Avenue, high 17, low 9
Saturday snow, swap fashion tips with Flames, high 15, low 17
Sunday flurries, visit Calgary Tower, feel inadequate, high 15, low 30
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Two agricultural students found out the hard way that chickens don't fly and may face criminal or university disciplinary action. The two tossed a bag of chicken feathers and five live chickens off the second floor balcony in CAB during the engineering week rally. The chickens which were painted red and black were described as half dead when they hit the ground. Engineering students disposed of them by ringing their necks and throwing them in a dumpster. The SPCA was still debating whether charges could be laid.

1986

OK, bye!

We're going to learn about journalism in St. John's Newfoundland this weekend. Thus, no Tuesday paper. See you Thursday, kids!



14 Did you know that Fred Durst once called the guys in Stained Devil worshippers and tried to have them kicked of this tour? True story! Read all about it in today's A&E section.

Student group views Palestine focus as unbalanced

INTERNATIONAL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think anytime Canadians can get together and talk about our role in the world and the specific things that we can do to try to help make a better world, I think it's all for the good," Das explained.

"So I look upon this as a chance to build awareness, a chance to confirm some of the things that everybody is already working on or may know about, and just the chance to get together in solidarity. And to share ideas and thoughts about how we can build a better future for humankind."

According to Hanneman, International Week seeks to foster debate and discussion. This goal may have been realized even prior to the week, as the scheduled events have already sparked debate between event organizers and a U of A student group.

The U of A Jewish Students' Association (JSA) expressed concerns last week that the presentations dealing with the Palestine-Israel conflict express the issues from a single perspective.

"The conflict came about as I was perusing the International Week schedule, and noticed that of the three issues that are dealing with the conflict in the middle east—specifically the Palestinian-Israeli conflict—the three programs dealing with that presented a one-sided, anti-Israel perspective," JSA director Shira Uretsky explained.

Uretsky said she wished she had been consulted by the organizers during the planning of the events, as last-minute changes to the schedule are not possible.

"I would have liked to have felt that International Week portrays a fair and equitable presentation, a balanced view," Uretsky said.

She explained a film portraying the issues from the perspective of Israel was shown last Friday as part of the events prior to the week. It followed a

film entitled *Behind the Fence*, which Uretsky felt expressed a pro-Palestine viewpoint. However, since this film was a last-minute addition, few stayed to watch it.

"We went to pains to ensure that the film we chose, *Behind the Fence*, was a balanced presentation," Hanneman countered.

"We also have confidence in our other presenters not to present issues in an inflammatory way. And we hope that everyone will engage in the discussion to present their point of view. The University is a venue for discussion and debate."

According to Hanneman, during the planning of events in October,

groups registered by the Students' Union are asked to submit proposals for presentations.

"We believe they should have received the invitation for programs as they are on the SU list of registered groups," she argued.

But according to Uretsky, this wasn't the case.

"As a director, I was never approached to be part of International Week. The fact that they were dealing with Israel- and Jewish-related topics, because they didn't approach us as the Jewish Students' Association—a registered group on campus—it certainly created even more of an atmosphere of one-sidedness."



EXCITED FOR INTERNATIONAL WEEK Nancy Hanneman, organizer.

Newfoundland gov't swallows student debt

NADYA BELL
The Muse

ST JOHN'S (CUP)—The provincial government of Newfoundland is starting to feel the pinch of student debt in a real fashion, now that accountants have included \$220-million of student debt on the provincial tab.

Many people are worried the province's strained finances will lead to an increase in tuition if university and college funding is decreased.

Last August, CIBC decided they would no longer be involved in the student loan business, and the province agreed to officially take over the student loan program on 1 April 2004.

The hopes of students and officials are that the government will improve the structure of the provincial student loan system, which students have often complained is both slow and difficult to use.

"We're optimistic about this whole exercise. It's very new, and there may be issues that will have to be worked

on as time goes on, but we see this as being clearly in the students' best interest," said John Ottenheimer, minister of education.

"They may cut funding or freeze funding to the university and the university would have no other choice but to raise tuition."

GERRY REID
LIBERAL CRITIC FOR EDUCATION

But to take over the program, the government must borrow \$220-million to buy the student loan debts from the private bank currently holding the loans. This is the total of all student loans held in Newfoundland and Labrador since 2000.

The expense does not sit well with the province's finances, which are currently the subject of much con-

troversy. On 5 January, the provincial government released the results of an external financial review of the province's finances.

Premier Danny Williams painted a grim picture of the province's finances. "If this [situation] continues, we are in very real danger of drowning in our own debt," said Williams.

Many people take this to mean that government cutbacks in the next budget will lead to a tuition increase in the future for students in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"My concern is that they may cut funding or freeze funding to the university, and the university would have no other choice but to raise tuition," said Gerry Reid, Liberal opposition critic for education.

Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) provincial chair Keith Dunne is concerned about the cutbacks causing tuition raises like the early 1990s.

"In these times of trimming the fat and streamlining, there's a lot to be concerned about."

932
Rehab med

1033

Travel Cuts

785

Iron Horse

897

Economic Development



1038

Student recievables

Debaters act as U of A ambassadors

DEBATE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tse and Ohayon were particularly proud of one U of A team that demolished the Harvard A team.

"Last year people didn't know where Alberta was, but we did well last year and this year when we said we were from Alberta, that was good enough."

**SHARON OHAYON,
BUSINESS STUDENT**

Ohayon said their experience helped spread the name of the University of Alberta throughout the world.

"Last year people didn't know where Alberta was, but we did well last year, and this year when we said we were from Alberta, that was good enough," she said.

Ohayon hopes the U of A community will benefit from their trip. "It brings back people who have great debate experience and enables understanding and a widening of perspectives and viewpoints, and in my mind that's something that is good for every community to have."

Tanner says the tournament provides irreplaceable educational experience. "You get to see how people from all over the world think about issues, and more times than you'd like, you sit there and think, 'wow, great point, I couldn't have thought of that.'"

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by *Caitlin Crawshaw*

SFU PONDERS GENDER-NEUTRAL WASHROOMS

BURNABY (CUP)—Washrooms designed specifically to be inclusive to transgendered persons could be on their way to Simon Fraser University.

A group of students researching the issue say they have support of university administrators. Their goal: to install single-stall, gender-neutral washrooms on every floor of every building on campus.

"The reason that we're getting these washrooms is to have a gender-neutral space for those who are intersex, transgender, or gender queer to use safely without any discrimination," said Louis Julig, a transgendered student and executive member of the Simon Fraser Student Society.

Julig is a member of the so-called bathroom committee, which is gathering information and feedback from students about the proposed washrooms. If they are built, the university would become the first in Canada to install gender-neutral washrooms, the student union executive said.

The bathroom committee is recommending that the facilities be identified by the word "washroom," rather than any pictogram.

The student union executive have support from Brenda Taylor, the university's human rights coordinator, and John Waterhouse, VP Academic.

"It's kind of exciting for such a traditionally oppressed group to receive respect and recognition, and the human rights it deserves," Julig enthused.

Stephen Hui, British Columbia Bureau

ROSENFELD—1, MCGILL-0

MONTREAL (CUP)—The McGill student who refused to submit his coursework to the anti-plagiarism website Turnitin.com in the fall won a major concession from the university administration last week when they decided to overturn his failing grades and mark his assignments.

Jesse Rosenfeld, an International Development Studies, garnered national media attention last term when he handed in his Economic Development assignments directly to the professor—despite a course requirement that all students use Turnitin.com—and received zeros on large portions of his work.

But months after appealing the results and entering into extended negotiations with McGill, Rosenfeld received notice last Tuesday that his assignments had been graded, again finding himself in the media spotlight, which included the front page of last Friday's *Globe and Mail*.

Turnitin.com is a for-profit company using the Internet and its own database of over one million essays to detect plagiarism. In December, McGill saw approximately 1400 students submit work to the website.

After receiving failing grades on his Economic Development assignments last term, Rosenfeld informally challenged the result, and received an administration offer to grade his assignments if he were to write a ten page paper on research methods. Two weeks ago, he rejected the offer and prepared to lodge a formal grievance.

On Tuesday, however, he received notice that his work would be marked without any additional qualifications.

The decision to mark Rosenfeld's assignments was made by his professor, Sonia Laszlo, the chair of the Economics department, Christopher Green, and the associate dean of student affairs for the Faculty of Arts, Enrica Quaroni.

David Wachsmuth, The McGill Daily

246

RATT

890

Grad Students

Women's sport doesn't need hotpants

IF SOME SLICK TV HUCKSTER is trying to sell you a spunky new product, say, a stick of deodorant, by just straightforwardly dangling said item in front of your face, he likely won't have the best luck. Maybe if he got some sort of "celebrity-type" to tell you about how ridiculously amazing the little bottle of antistink in question is, you'd start paying a little bit more attention. And if he got that "celebrity-type" to dance around in a silky negligé while telling you that this deodorant had some sort of magical love-power over all the attractive corners of humankind, you might just consider making a little space in your budget.

Sex, like so many other things, sells. It finds its way into how we still everything from music, to cars, to chewing gum with little controversy. It sells so well that in an article printed 17 January in the British newspaper, the *Guardian*, the President of the international soccer organization FIFA, Sepp Blatter, was quoted as saying he's interested in promoting women's soccer with such tried and true T&A techniques: "They could, for example, wear tighter shorts. In volleyball the women also wear other uniforms than the men. Pretty women are playing football today. Excuse me for saying that."

Blatter's proposed promotional strategy quickly ignited one very large angry-bomb of opposition. But it's vaguely interesting that his suggestion created such a stir, as his comments, though blatantly sexist, can't exactly be called unusual: one need only look so far as David Beckham's dreamy eyes to find a little sex-mongering in soccer, and as for the realm of women's sport, the *de rigueur* for its presentation seems to be about ogling fine, athletic second.

From the athletic bra-and-thong ensemble sported by squash player Vicki Botwright during the 2001 British Open to the skimpy two-pieces required of Olympic beach volleyballers, uniforms for women in sport only seem to degrade the games into gifle shows. Though many of these uniform choices have a basis in their practicality (close fitting uniforms out of necessity for sport, skimpy uniforms to remain cool in hot conditions, etc) they often get more attention—namely, Botwright was featured as a pin-up in the *London Times* after the sensation caused by her outfit—than the athletes' accomplishments.

Blatter is no doubt hoping that any attention garnered by his hotpants proposal is good attention for the sport. But his sensationalism inherently disregards the game he's supposedly hoping to promote. Women's soccer, though still trying to grow, is by all reports doing admirably in Canada. The Under-19 Women's World Soccer Final between Canada and the US attracted 928 000 viewers and was one of Sportsnet's highest rated broadcasts ever. And according to Canadian national women's team head coach, Even Pellerud, women's soccer exhibition games are attracting crowds of over 30 000. Clearly people are interested without the promise of hotpants, so why offer a distraction?

It would seem that Blatter has a few basic things to learn about what he's selling. Sure, sex sells, but why bother with tacky old tricks when the product sells itself?

LEAH COLLINS
Features Editor

Elections: the best reality television

IT'S EASY TO FORGET that Canada's in an election year. Like the NHL compared to the CFL, the American version of the leadership race seems to be the flashier, more interesting election to follow. Iowa's Democratic primaries already took place on Monday, a possible power change down south appears to be the best reality television show on the air.

With General Wesley Clark granting himself immunity from the Iowa vote, and Dick Gephardt voting himself off the island, the drama continues to unfold. One thing is for certain: Canada's march to the election is going to be as memorable as Ryan Malcolm's career, while the real fate of the world will be decided by the sweeps-week ratings winner south of the border.

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor



LETTERS

Panas the only man who understands women

I just wanted to applaud Trevor Panas's recent article "Western idea of beauty is stupidly skewed," 20 January.

Mr Panas has to be one of the only males I've ever encountered that actually noticed or cared about the media's impact on young women. His article made me really happy because the vast majority of males I've met in Edmonton are either sexist, or, at best, indifferent to the plight of women that still exists. It sickens me that girls are expected to be rail-thin but their chests are still supposed to be large. Thus, they're encouraged to starve themselves and inject their chests with silicone or the almost equally dangerous saline to achieve this idealized body form. Why this is desirable is a bit baffling to me, considering no one is naturally stick-thin with exceedingly large breasts.

It's sad that this unnatural and unattainable body image is what young teenage girls are bombarded with everyday. If only all guys were like Mr Panas, maybe then we would see real women on TV and not these artificial creations.

ERIN BEAUDIN
Biological Sciences IV

University advisers aren't helping students

It seems to me that university was created with the intention of allowing someone to work towards a brighter future. It was a place that helped enhance your future and build success. The foundation of university today has changed from focusing on students' futures and well-being to the amount of money an institution can earn from its student body.

As degrees have become the prerequisite for successful careers, university has become overwhelmingly popular, increasing entrance competition. Instead of allowing more people to succeed it has become progressively more difficult to become what you want to be. With higher academic pressures and fewer avail-

able spots it is unknown exactly how long it will take a student to earn the degree or dream they wish to fulfill. This idea coincides perfectly with the university focus as the longer they keep students working to obtain a goal the more money they can collect from them.

Packing more students onto a campus means more focus on the degree and less on the welfare of the learners. There is a massive lack of communication between students and their faculties. Confused students are more likely to make program-planning mistakes, which will extend their programs and continue their payments to the University.

For myself, a simple question answered correctly would have changed my academic decisions and I would not have wasted an entire semester. Of course I did finally get some useful academic advice after it was too late to change courses, make alternate decisions or obtain a refund. One wrong answer has prolonged my academic career by at least a year.

With 33 000 students paying approximately \$4000 in tuition alone each year shouldn't solutions to students' problems be included in that price? I would be happy to pay future tuition increases if it guarantees me better advising and direction, not larger class sizes and decreased likelihood of success. Some of our money should go towards helping us guide our futures. Two minutes available at an impersonal advising counter is not enough communication. It's time to take care of the students and help us achieve our goals rather than hinder the process in order to keep paying students around longer.

JINEL BURNS
Education IV

Ross Moroz personally offends a reader

I am writing in response to Ross Moroz's column in the 15 January issue of the *Gateway* ("Good Canada-US relations are not always a positive"). In his article, Moroz describes people who do not agree with his view that Trudeau was a better leader than Martin as "drunk-driving, Ralph-Klein-voting, Nickelback-listening high-school dropouts."

I find this statement personally offensive. I believe that Pierre Trudeau was one of the worst Prime Ministers in Canadian history. In fact, I believe the actions and policies of his administration were the catalyst for most of the problems our country faces today. In spite of this, I am not a "drunk-driving, Ralph-Klein-voting, Nickelback-listening high-school dropout." I have never driven while impaired, I hate Nickelback, and I am not a high-school dropout. I did, however, proudly campaign and vote for Ralph Klein.

I would not lower myself to the level of personally insulting or stereotyping those on the political left who disagree with my views. In fact, our country would be a very boring place if everybody believed things should be done the same way. However, tolerance and respect for the views of others is a two-way street. The left is so fond of preaching this last point; maybe it's time they started practicing it.

CHRIS REPKA
Materials Engineering Grad Studies I

Semi-private healthcare for smokers

Sunday, 11 January marked the 40th anniversary of the surgeon general's groundbreaking report on the negative consequences associated with smoking. Since then, smoking rates in Canada have dropped by half—but the death rates from smoking-related illness are still on the rise.

Over the next 20 to 30 years, healthcare costs are going to grow significantly. As more and more smoking baby boomers reach the age of retirement, their contributions to healthcare funding will be minimized. The onus is going to be placed on us, as the next generation of (mostly) non-smoking taxpayers, to make up the discrepancy between the taxes collected from retiring smokers and the actual costs of treating them for smoking-related illness. If recent strains on healthcare in this province are any indication, that discrepancy will amount to a large strain on the healthcare system.

Why should we, as educated, non-smoking citizens, be saddled with this burden? Of course, there is the whole array of arguments

against any move toward the privatization of healthcare, but let's say we were going to semi-privatize in order to deal with the rising costs associated with smoking. As a society, we would have to decide what should still be covered by public healthcare and what should not. We don't think anyone would argue that people who have no control over their condition—people with diabetes, breast cancer, or MS, for example—should not continue to have relatively free coverage, because they did not consciously get sick. We might say, then, that all people who consciously choose lifestyles that dramatically increase their risk of health problems should be asked to pay more than those who do not.

But where do we draw the line? Obviously, smoking is an activity that has negative health consequences, but so does driving, bicycling, or playing hockey. These are valid concerns, and we don't think anyone at this point has all the answers. So let's take it one step at a time: we know smoking is bad for us. Unlike driving, bicycling, and playing hockey it has become culturally unacceptable. Smoking has banned entirely in shopping malls, workplaces, restaurants and schools. Cigarette taxes have gone through the roof and every pack is adorned with graphic imagery purveying the message that smoking kills.

Let's remove the last excuse smokers have in order to decrease the costs of healthcare to a reasonable level and stop providing smokers with free healthcare.

JESSY FALLU
Science II
JARED BACHYNSKI
Arts I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

French government is overreacting over display of religious symbols



GERARD
McLARNEY

France has recently taken measures to ban the wearing of the *hijab* by Muslim women in public schools and government workplaces. President Jacques Chirac's government is poised to implement the policy this coming September in order to bring unity to the nation. Secularism is "a crucial element of social peace and national cohesion," said Chirac. The proposed legislation is aimed to integrate each French citizen, particularly Muslim women, into the wider national community at the expense of individual religious identity.

In order to place all French persons on an equal plane, the legislation has sought to proscribe other prominent religious apparel, such as large crucifixes and Jewish skull caps. It allows for more discrete tokens of religious affiliation, such as small crosses, Stars of David and Hands of Fatima.

Most commentators have remarked that despite the prohibitions across faith traditions, the primary issue without a doubt is the Islamic *hijab*. There is talk in Germany of implementing a similar piece of legislation that would prohibit government employees from wearing the *hijab*.

Why all the fuss? The average Canadian observer is likely to view these developments as slightly absurd if not fantastical. After all, for a Member of the Legislative Assembly to propose the banning of the *hijab* in

Albertan public schools would be tantamount to political suicide. Diversity is something Canadian society not only celebrates but is proud of. We must recall, however, that our strong multicultural ethos has only emerged in the last generation or two.

On the other hand France is a much older nation, and once a colonial power. Its overall population of 60 million is dwindling and is faced with a surging Muslim community, which is five million strong and the largest in Western Europe. Many Muslims are immigrants—or immigrants' descendants—who have come from former French colonies. Those in the motherland are experiencing a "population invasion" by former subjugated persons who were once safely ruled from afar by the French.

We must also consider that the French Muslim is often of a different ethnicity than the majority of French people. Along with a sense of powerlessness and fear, racism might also be considered a factor in the legislation. Read between the lines: the government legislation is a clear message from the French majority, "we control this nation and this is how we expect you to dress here."

Indeed, Chirac's move has not turned him into a pariah but rather has gained him an incredible amount of public support to the tune of 57 per cent according to a recent poll. Consideration must also be given to practicing Muslims' devotion to God. The *hijab* is rightly perceived as a symbol of Islam blossoming in France. While the nation has traditionally been considered Catholic-Christian, an increasing number of French people are non-practicing Christians or profess no reli-

gious allegiance. There is a tendency among humans to draw back into the fold those who appear to be making strides towards a goal the majority cannot or refuses to achieve. One would suspect that the innate longing for union with the divine and the matter of salvation are also issues, albeit likely unconscious in the public persona, that are contributing to the popularity of the legislation.

Given the reasons for the legislation laid out above, it looks like the French government's strategy is bound to fail. For one, legislative coercion to curtail religious devotion has a history of failure and often produces the reverse effect of what is intended. Karen Armstrong, an Oxford professor who has written much about Islam, notes in her book, *A History of God*, that "religion is a human need that affects life at every level ... [and] if suppressed, the results are likely to be ... explosive and destructive." In short, we can expect that the legislation will not only increase religiosity among French Muslims but it will also legitimize and fuel extremist Muslims. While popular in the short term, the law will promote deeper suspicion amongst Muslims toward the governing majority in France and vice versa. This has dangerous implications for the nation that will have, if demographic trends continue, a sizeable Muslim population in a handful of generations.

On the homefront, we should recall how little debate followed the anti-terrorism legislation after 11 September. In short, wisdom is called for and voices of temperance are needed to express how best to uphold liberty and equality when the majority does not wish to.

928

CRO

1034

Travel Cuts

Stronach the Conservatives' best hope

Young auto parts CEO best hope against Conservative leadership vacuum



TREVOR
PANAY

The race is on to see who will lead Canada's new Conservative party, and already it looks to be an interesting one, both because of who's running and who's not. Big names like Mike Harris and Bernard Lord made it clear before the start they wanted no part of the as-yet-untested and largely policy-less right of centre party. Peter Mackay, the young, progressive minded and moderate PC leader, has decided to bow out gracefully, which is a great loss, as he is the only PC leader in recent memory that appealed to "red" conservatives. The only possible beneficial outcome of his deciding not to run is that it may not divide the moderate wing of the new party between candidates and thus provide the chance for a single small "c" conservative to have a serious chance at defeating Steven Harper.

In my inaugural year as a legal age voting citizen, I was forced to vote for the politically inept NDP, not because I thought they have a chance at actually forming a government, or because I agreed with many of their money-for-nothing policies, but because I saw them as the lesser of four evils. The

Liberals were too wasteful and corrupt, the PCs were stodgy old patriarchy (until Mackay, but it's too late for that now), and the Canadian Alliance scared the living shit out of a socially progressive person like myself, who didn't want to see witch-burning legalized and homosexuality put back in the criminal code. This time around, the lesser of four evils will become the lesser of three, and I'm willing to bet that a lot of Canadians, like myself, will decide which box to check off on our ballot based on the outcome of the Conservative leadership race in March. My hopes don't lie with any one man, however. They lie with one woman.

Belinda Stronach is a 37-year-old multi-billionaire auto parts CEO, a successful and competent businesswoman who keeps company with many of the corporate and political elite of the western world, and whom no one in Canada had heard about until last week, when she made it clear she would soon join the leadership hopefuls in an attempt to win party leadership of the new Conservatives.

I'm not ready to throw any kind of support behind Ms Stronach, because I have no idea what she stands for or against, but I'm damn sure that I won't be voting for any of the other candidates should they win the leadership. If other conservatives are thinking along the same lines, this means that Stronach is quite possibly the only hope the Conservative party has of capturing the votes of the largest and

most crucial segment of the populace, those cluttered around the political center. Steven Harper will never shake the ghost of his Alliance past, and the only other official leadership candidate so far is former Ontario health minister Tony Clement, who is also known for his far right dealings in Mike Harris' government.

If the company she keeps is any indication, Stronach may very well be the fiscally conservative yet socially progressive candidate that many in Canada have been yearning for, as she has been a long-time friend of former US President Bill Clinton, who is well-known for his centrist policies, environmental awareness, and opposition to the war in Iraq. I'll be the first to say my ballot for someone who can speak about fiscal responsibility, corporate growth, sovereign foreign policy and environmental protection in the same sentence.

It remains to be seen what Stronach's policies truly are, and we may yet see that they are completely contrary to what I and many others have hoped for. It is, after all, difficult to imagine someone twenty times wealthier than Paul Martin being politically moderate. However, if I am correct, the voting members of the new Conservative party would be wise to realize that Stronach is their only real chance of challenging the incumbent money-burning Liberals, which is something Canada desperately needs. Let the games begin.

449

Black Dog

977

Downhill riders

1036

Travel Cuts

280

SFAIC

Bush-Hitler comparisons are 'irresponsible'

AARON
BRAITEN

In September 2002, German Justice Minister Herta and Glinn compared the tactics used by George W. Bush to those of Adolf Hitler when she argued that Bush was using Iraq to distract from domestic issues. "That's a popular method," she stated. "Even Hitler did that." What was an exercise in comparative politics—comparing the tactics used by one regime with those of another—suddenly became "Bush = Hitler" in the media. Bush-Hitler arguments are easily dismissed, and they constitute an effective inoculation against critical thought.

The purpose of an inoculation is to deliver a weakened version of a virus to a person in order to enable their body to fight off the real thing. Analogously, Bush-Hitler comparisons are making it virtually impossible to engage in critical analysis of the United States' close resemblance to a fascist state. The Bush-Hitler argument is so easily cast down in people's minds that even a simple exercise in comparative politics becomes a thought-crime. After all, Bush, if he is evil, in no way comes close to the evilness of Hitler, and lacks the same charisma. To compare the two lessens the gravity of the suffering for those who suffered under Hitler.

Rationalizations aside, it is important to understand that Hitler, like Bush, was not a sole actor but had a much broader apparatus of power composed of financial supporters and fraternal networks. These networks were institutionalized into a definite economic force that rationalized the

treatment of humans as expendable—when they've served their purpose, dispose of them. As the Jews were rounded up into Death Camps such as Terezin or Auschwitz, professionals from the Red Cross were given a tour of these facilities and were shown footage of thousands of Jews playing and having fun (which, obviously, did not happen).

Does the fact that Prescott Bush profited from the Nazi war machine necessarily mean that Dubya has fascist tendencies and is therefore a Mini-Hitler? Not necessarily, but it might mean that the fortunate son's silver spoon is really made from Nazi gold.

Of course it wouldn't seem fair to compare Terezin or Auschwitz to Camp X-Ray, but what's troublesome is the human ability to rationalize the ethics of such setups. Torturing of prisoners, if it is indeed happening, has been rationalized. We have all been shown footage from Guantanamo Bay by the same media complex that gave us media clones, embedded journalism and the Jessica Lynch rescue. It's not likely that we'll one day discover otherwise, right? You don't suppose we'll ever find out what has happened to the dozens of people who have "disappeared" in a post-Patriot America? If anything did happen to them, it's probably not as bad as what the Jews went through, right?

Shortly after Dürbler-Glinn's remarks, President Bush compared Saddam Hussein to Hitler. Critics responded that Bush should know; his grandfather Prescott Bush helped fund Nazi enterprises through his bank, Brown Brothers Harriman, and even had another company closed down by the government—Union Banking Corp.—under the Trading With the Enemy Act. Does the fact that Prescott Bush profited from the Nazi war machine necessarily mean that Dubya has fascist tendencies and is therefore a Mini-Hitler? Not necessarily, but it might mean that the fortunate son's silver spoon is really made from Nazi gold.

The real issue lies in the much broader institutional, or, for a lack of a better term, "systemic" nature of modern corporate capitalism. Students of comparative politics use a certain buzzword to describe the centrally planned post-WWII capitalism in Germany, Japan and North America. Due to its powerful economic growth numbers, economists praise this hybrid of Big Government, Big Business and Big Labour: "Corporatism," as it is called, represents the marriage of corporations and state into a tight relationship, and the granting of special or exclusive rights related to production. Corporatism lies at the very heart of fascism, and is, essentially, fascism without the window dressing of nationalism, racism and totalitarian leaders such as Mussolini and Hitler. "Fascism," Mussolini once quoted, "should more appropriately be called corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power."

Bush-Hitler comparisons are historically and socially irresponsible; however, the obviousness of this runs the risk of effectively blocking out any serious discussion in media, academia and conversation concerning the rise of American Fascism.

Looking at the politics of Lord of the Rings

MELVIN
BACKSTROM

When I was growing up, I read a lot. A fairly shy child, I found in books, especially fantasy ones, the friends and adventures that I often found so lacking in my thoroughly middle-class, suburban existence. Undoubtedly my favorite book, and the one that I read over and over again, was *The Lord of the Rings*. So convinced was I that it was based on historical fact that I used to spend days during my summer holidays exploring the then-much-less-developed River Valley for signs of elves. Unfortunately, I never found any, but my wonder at Tolkien's imagination continues to this day. Given the continuing popularity of the book, and the massive success of the films, a lot of people seem to agree with me.

Now I don't mean to upset anyone's cherished enjoyment of either the book or the films, but, with some exceptions, there has strangely been very little discussion of the politics of *The Lord of the Rings*. Though Tolkien famously wrote that he detested allegory in any form, it's hard to imagine that the events during his lifetime (World Wars I and II, and the Cold War) did not have an effect on his writing. As feminists, post-structuralists and other intellec-

tual movements of the last thirty years have repeatedly stressed, all writing is contextualized; all experience exists necessarily within a political discourse. It would, therefore, be very strange for those who constantly insist upon bringing to the surface the implicit politicizations of literature (and of art in general) to ignore this completely when it comes to *The Lord of the Rings*, but it is, ironically, very often the case.

Contrary to what many people think, conservatism and environmentalism aren't antithetical to each other.

So let me fill in the details: Tolkien was a devout Catholic—the once described *The Lord of the Rings* as "a fundamentally religious and Catholic work"—a Romantic (in its aristocratic, anti-Enlightenment sense), and, in terms of his politics, quite conservative. He was certainly not a socialist by any stretch of the imagination as made evident by the constant valorizations of "nobility," and the insistence on the metaphysical reality of good and evil that run throughout the text, and now film, of *The Lord of the Rings*.

His environmentalism, which many people of a leftist persuasion find so agreeable, is not of the socialist kind—that today's present environmental degradation is the fault of capitalism

and will be remedied only after the means of production are in the hands of the workers—but, reflecting his anti-Modernist, Romantic views, is instead of a conservative variety. Contrary to what many people think, conservatism and environmentalism aren't antithetical to each other. Tolkien's traditional conservatism—as opposed to the modern progressive variety that conceives of the environment in purely utilitarian ways—sees the environment in terms of the sublime; reflecting the power and incomprehensibility of the Creation, that must be respected and acknowledged as such.

What, then, is my opinion of Tolkien's politics? Well, I agree with what John Rhys-Davies, who plays the dwarf Gimli in the films, said concerning the message of *The Lord of the Rings*. "Tolkien believed that some generations will be challenged. And if they do not rise to meet that challenge, they will lose their civilization" (strange, that sounds not too different from what Dubya might say); no room for cultural relativism here.

Though he fought in World War I and lost most of his friends to its carnage, Tolkien was no pacifist. The message of *The Lord of the Rings* is clear: there are things worth fighting for; good and evil are not just social constructs; individuals, not economic classes, matter; divine grace is real.

Whether you enjoyed the books or films is, of course, your own business. You can't, however, avoid dealing with the very obvious political and religious implications of Tolkien's imagination.

Canada could get its own mini-Puerto Rico

Hopefully, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands are into hockey



ADAM
ROZENHART

Imagine basking in the warm glow of the bright sun as it lightly toasts your skin a golden-brown. Imagine the cry of gulls off in the distance, and the sound of waves lapping up on the beach a matter of a few feet in front of you. Finally, imagine the waiter of the resort you're staying at approach you and say, "Can I get you another Canadian, eh?"

Jarring, isn't it, to be in a tropical island paradise only to be served by your run-of-the-mill, polite Canadian? Few areas in Canada boast the sort of tropical paradise described in the above paragraph. But that could all change if Edmonton MP Peter Goldring has his way. The ambitious MP's put up \$3500 of his own money to travel out to the Turks and Caicos Islands—a tiny land mass southeast of Miami—looking to perhaps form a union with the small British colony. Canada was originally approached by the islands in the early 1980s; the islands' government suggested that Canada annex the 430 square kilometre land mass in an effort to bring the tiny nation out of an economic slump. Since then, the annexation of the Turks and Caicos Islands has been in the back of the minds of several MPs, including Goldring.

Ignoring for a moment the potential economic impact—either positive or negative—of annexing the Turks and Caicos, this proposal presents the opportunity for Canada to acquire the very thing that's been lacking in our collective national identity: our very own mini-Puerto Rico.

Honestly, though, annexing these islands might prove to not be as big a logistical nightmare as some might have you believe. To begin with, we wouldn't even need to rename the new territory's capital; the current name of Cockburn Town serves as a fitting tribute to one of Canada's most celebrated poets. And that pesky fisheries problem we've been having out on the east coast will more or less be solved since one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' natural resources is the delicious spiny lobster.

This also presents the opportunity to visit upon another country the colonialism visited upon Canada's Native peoples, only this time, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands actually want to be annexed and plundered.

Any way you look at it, a Canadian tropical island paradise sounds like a pretty terrific idea. There's only one major hurdle to absorbing the island's population: convincing them that hockey is a hell of a lot more fun than, say, lounging around on the beach all day. But given the potential payoff, I'm willing to whome myself out as Canadian ambassador to the Turks and Caicos Island nation, perhaps soon to be Canada's fourth territory.

Four ineffective levels of government are fueling the fires of apathy



DAVID
BERRY

The Students' Union once again proved its ultimate futility again last week; yet another maximum tuition increase went through with barely a second thought, leaving President Mat Brechtel and his throng of some 300 protesters standing in the cold with pockets turned inside out and the vague feeling of being poorer.

Though the SU has done a few notable things of late, such as extending the add/drop deadline and getting a real registration system up and running in the form of Bearcat, the only thing the average student cares about is that big old tuition battle, which is lost, albeit valiantly, year after year by the soldiers of the SU.

That said, the SU does have a few things going for it. Say what you will about their ultimate ineffectiveness, they seem to actually listen to their constituents, and there are at least a few eager and dynamic individuals involved willing to try some radical things in student government, from the suggestion to try for a smaller tuition increase rather than an outright freeze to Steve Smith's suggestion earlier in the year that the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers of the SU be separated. This willingness to take a chance is much more than we can say for Edmonton City Council, for instance.

City Council, that bastion of ineffectiveness and complacency whose councilors seem more determined to keep their jobs by not angering anyone than trying to improve conditions in the city—so much so even our most dynamic and charismatic councilor, Ward Four's Michael Phair, is suspiciously unwilling to step up and lead this city anywhere. This could be forgiven, if councilors showed more effectiveness than the aforementioned SU. Sadly, however, this municipal excuse for government is so unaware that they bemoan the lack of commerce in downtown while simultaneously rejecting an application for a night club that could bring in some money. Meanwhile, they approve the sprawling, big-box mess that is South Edmonton Common, conveniently located as far south from downtown as you can get within city limits.

City Council seems to be doing City Council one better, apparently going out of their way to anger and/or decrease the standard of living of their constituents in an effort to see how far they can go without being ousted. So far, the cost of nearly every major utility has skyrocketed since deregulation, postsecondary students face increasing tuition, elementary and secondary students face increasing class sizes, and what few public employees that are left outside of the actual working government have either gone on strike in the last few years or considered it the "Alberta Advantage" at work.

These complaints aside, the federal government seems to be doing an adequate job at the moment, so long as you consider their job to be campaigning for leadership of their respective party or bickering. If that's the case, those MP's deserve a nice raise.

Yes, it seems whether you're considering Mat Brechtel or Paul Martin these days, you're coming face to face with governance that is ineffective at best and downright inept at worst. Naturally, some of the blame for this has to fall on us, the voters; there is simply no way four separate levels of government are this problematic without some serious political apathy going on. That said, there is also a marked lack of leadership among our various levels of government that isn't inspiring anything within those same apathetic voters.

Until a decent leader comes along, and for that matter finds an audience that is both receptive and proactive, we're resigned to these political doldrums, whatever level of government we happen to be complaining about.

Yes, it seems whether you're considering Mat Brechtel or Paul Martin these days, you're coming face to face with governance that is ineffective at best and downright inept at worst.

945

Ombud Service

978

Office of the Registrar

Opposition to gun registration is ridiculous



SARAH
HANASYK

I think of myself as a fairly liberal-minded person, one who chooses to embrace different, and even opposing, viewpoints in order to gain an empathetic understanding of a contrasting frame of reference. One who will dance in a gay bar next to some hairy guy named "Bonnie" dressed in a black unitard. One who will give Ashton Kutcher's acting ability one more chance before attributing his continued casting in films as merely the clever stratagem of directors to meet, and subsequently hit on, Demi Moore.

And I'd like to believe that a lot of my friends are the same way, supposing that I generally surround myself with those who share my views against groundless judgements and predetermined prejudice upon others. But sometimes I think that if Alberta were a person, he would be a big, fat, fundamentalist conservative, wearing a plaid checked shirt, driving a half-ton pickup with a gun rack and a bumper sticker that says, "Guns don't kill people, I do." I also see this Albertan as potentially being elected our premier some day.

Regardless of whether our collective fashion sense can rival that of Canada's more self-aggrandizing provinces, no number of Fringe festivals, street-performers, or *Canadian Idol* auditions can convince me that, when it comes to human and animal welfare and safety, Alberta has a very liberal or flexible opinion. This conviction—though already slowly cementing in my mind from years of witnessing healthcare and education cuts—has

become further solidified by the continued opposition to Bill C-68 by the Alberta government.

This bill, which calls for federal registration of all firearms, has been subject to controversy over the issue that it defeats the rights to personal property ownership, and now, under a new slant, that it denies our province's heritage. Though unsurprisingly mainly a rural issue, it is being branded as "unconstitutional" under our supposed democracy, and has even been formally targeted by the Privacy Commission as a potential violator of the privacy of its future users, owing to the detail of personal information to be collected with registration.

Being avidly against gun ownership in any way aside from possibly farmers and ranchers, I dispute that the costs associated with the implementation of said registration policy would in no way rival those from crime, as well as the emotional loss from accidental death by firearms. What's more, there are now countless websites constructed in protest not even from a financial standpoint, but claiming opposition because of the detriment to game hunters. Game hunting, of course, being a "sport" for "people" who choose to drive a .23 calibre bullet into the brain of an animal that

they likely have no intention of using for food—and which has no intention of harming them—in order to feel virulent and superior in the eyes of their impressionable on-looking child. If this really were a sport, then Mr Elk would be armed with a 10-gauge shotgun and night vision goggles, or better yet, each opponent would have to engage in head-to-head combat armed with nothing but sheer wildlife cunning and innate muscular strength. If this were the case, my money would be on the ten-foot bear, not the guy in the neon vest.

I argue that registration of firearms is no measure worthy of such protest. Who cares if your name is written down because you own a rifle? Planning on murdering someone? And I can think of countless other mediums where more of your personal information is at the hands of the public than a licensing or registration agency. Own a credit card? Pay taxes? Use the Internet? This isn't an issue of privacy or funding. This is a bunch of middle-aged rednecks refusing to accept the dangers associated with guns under the guise of genuine concern over democratic personal freedom and ownership issues.

Ge, Charlton Heston would be so proud.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Least popular pornographic TV shows

- 10 *Everybody Tugs Raymond*
- 9 *Da Vinci's Incest*
- 8 *This Hour Costs 22 Dollars*
- 7 *Smaller Than Average Joe*
- 6 *Brown Eye for the Straight Guy*
- 5 *Trading Feces*
- 4 *Will & Grace & Bubba*
- 3 *CSI: Amsterdam*
- 2 *America's Runniest Home Videos*
- 1 *Malcolm in the Butthole*



volunteer 4pm fridays = 3-04 SUB

1035

Travel Cuts

Save the world: become bisexual



PAUL
KNOECHEL

Like most great ideas in my life, the one upon which I am about to expound came from someone other than me. During the course of my winter break I had the pleasure of seeing my friend Krista and being privy to her theories on life: namely, that the world would be a happier and better place if everyone in it were bisexual. Now, perhaps it was all the horse tranquilizers that I had ingested during the evening, or the bottle of sketchy-looking tequila, but at a certain point of listening to her wisdom, I took her words for little more than a joke. However, on the bus ride back to Edmonton, with a mind-splitting hangover as my only companion, I had time to reflect upon her wisdom, and it became more and more brilliant to me. Such a simple idea, yet truly profound: the world would be a much better place if we were all bisexual.

Many of the world's darkest chapters in history have often been perpetrated in the name of love and/or some other vague concept. The Siege of Troy, for example—a decade long and at the cost of untold lives—was fought over a woman. How many times have you had to listen to a friend bitch about

some girl or guy he or she couldn't get? The general dating-and-finding-someone thing is so fraught with perils that people are actually making money off selling love woodoo dolls to help you find Mr or Ms Right.

Having twice as many people to date (not to mention the added benefit of zero sexual confusion, having reached a nice state of balance) would produce a much more relaxed world atmosphere.

How this ties in with bisexuality, more importantly, is that if you had a larger pool of possibilities to choose from, much of this peril could be avoided. Do you think the Greeks would have launched a thousand ships for Helen if poor Melenaus could have gotten some rebound play from that hunky second-in-command? Having twice as many people to date (not to mention the added benefit of zero sexual confusion, having reached a nice state of balance) would produce a much more relaxed world atmosphere.

However, when there are 6.3 billion people in that relaxed world atmosphere with a population growth rate

of 1.17 per cent, I'd think it's fair to say it's getting a little crowded, and will only get more so with about another 73 million people coming in annually. But, should only one third of the world's couplings be able to naturally reproduce we'd see quite the drop in population growth rate, not to mention a drastic decrease in the 42 000 teen pregnancies that occur yearly in Canada.

And, I suppose, now that everyone was open-minded and relaxed about life, there wouldn't have to be the whole gay marriage debate. Hell, at least half of marriages (probably more) would be gay, so no one would look twice if two men ended up together. You'd get the same happy/jealous feelings watching them make-out the same as some heterosexual couple. And with that whole taboo done away with, there wouldn't have to be the stupid media frenzy around the issue—you might actually see something on the news about, perhaps, an overseas conflict or local economics.

It's an interesting hypothetical—something I think shouldn't be dismissed as I did at first. It's far from perfect, I know, but there is merit in these ideas. Plus, as it stands, people will always be fucked up by love. People all over the world will continue having children when they shouldn't, and many people won't lighten up about the idea of two people who love each other getting married when they're the same gender. Apparently bisexuality is the way to go.

559

Study Buddy



ROLL

"One time when I was 17 my friends and I took turns skating around this collection [yard] with our one pair of roller skates. I was nicknamed 'The Frog' and my best friend Jessica was nicknamed 'Cool Cat'. Our friend Tyler tried to jump everything in those skates, on five hits of acid and a bottle of So Co... and he was still the best one out of all of us."

—Grin Eden, Roller skating enthusiasts

If you're a child of the 1980s, it's inevitable someone you know will have a story about roller skating. My own memories consist of skating with my red, white and blue Adidas skates in my cool unfinished basement during the summer when I was seven. I'd play songs by Culture Club and wheel around in circles, swinging off support poles. I loved my "quads" until I bailed during a skate down the driveway. I didn't stunt-jump into the grass in time and had to have my mom pluck out gravel from my knee piece by piece while flooding the area with hydrogen peroxide. And yes, I still have the scars.

Roller History

Roller skating enjoyed huge popularity starting in the early 1900s. Restaurants employed barmaids on roller skates, and huge halls opened that had thousands of people roll through their doors each night to try out the new activity.

In 1978, when disco music and roller skates were married at skate clubs and in movies like *Rollerboogie*, roller skating enjoyed a second coming. The music was good, the disco balls were turning and people were having fun on four wheels.

Roller rinks became a staple of '80s culture just like video games, dance music and bad sitcoms. Teenagers, families, and all sorts of people would spend hours skating around the disorienting world of the roller rink.

The buildings had memorably punny names like "The Skate Inn" in Florida, "The Skateum" in North Carolina, and "The Wheel World," the only remaining rink in Chicago. They'd hold birthday parties where kids would skate around, linking their arms in huge chains, spinning round and round until the Orange Crush and hot dogs in their stomach made them sick.

With the coming of the '90s, the last roller rink in Edmonton, the *Sparks Wheel*, closed its doors, seemingly for good. The last roller rink was built on as being bought up by Northlands Park. The rink was forced to close soon thereafter, leaving

many disapp... revamped th... palaces, it se... prehistoric... So when I s... was opening

Roller Rink

The new... roller skate... shipping and... army base... rink feels like... when I was... disco ball's... light.

Back in the... beg all the sta...

Rollerboogie... pinball mach... booted, roller... carpet's new... the lighting... to brighten... folks and pe...

Amith Prat... the old Spor... to open the... as Pratap be... his dream b... the site is a... loading bay... "I knew whe... size, the right

A brief history of the

ROLLER SKATE

1700s – Skelcers are born in Holland. In the land of the frozen canal and birthplace of the ice skate, an anonymous Dutchman invents a sort of box with wheels on it with straps for your feet. It's used to get around Dutch cities during summertime.

1780 – Joseph Merlin, London inventor extraordinaire, rolls into a party on boots with metal wheels attached. Not only did he come in skating, but also playing a violin. It was no surprise to anyone when he and his strange new "wheely boots" quickly crashed into a huge mirror at the end of the ballroom.

1810 – Inline skates are first patented by Monsieur Petibledin, in France. The invention consisted of rollers of wood or ivory attached to a boot in a straight line.

1890 – "Roller girls," precursors to drive-in

carhops, come into existence at a huge beer hall in Berlin, Germany. Barmaids whizzed about on huge flagons of beer, demonstrating the service that roller skates could provide.

1867 – Large public skating rinks began in Europe.

1902 – 7000 patrons skate through the huge skating hall in Chicago.

1970s – Disco music and roller rinks merge together into a wholesome, healthy and fun activity.

1980 – *Xanadu*, starring Olivia Newton-John, roller disco muse becomes a "Xana-don't" a

ROLLER revival

Words: Kelly Zenkewich
Photos: Jordan Verlage

pointed skaters in its wake. As West Edmonton Mall itself to add gigantplex movie theatres and video games, no one would ever again want to take part in activities such as roller skating and *able to be May* started to hear whispers in December that Edmonton is a roller rink. I visited it as soon as possible.

naissance

West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton's latest reincarnation of the scene opened in late 2003. The new rink is in an old storage warehouse on the abandoned Griesbach in the north side of Edmonton. Walking in, the roller is a throwback to 1984 or thereabouts. A flashback of a younger returns to me, and I remember how the rink's reflection made me feel like I was lost in a blizzard of

There are *disco balls* over the skating floor, and the DJ in his strobe-lit booth is taking requests. As I walk by I hear a girl ask if he has anything from Croase. A song by Michael Jackson comes on and a couple passes me, making cracks about Jackson's recent legal problems. It's retro night and the feeling's right. It's time to strap those skates on.

games added, creating even more of a memorable trip out. Pratap is currently looking for artists to do some freehand artwork in the building. He'd like some murals reflecting the era that roller skating grew out of.

There's something about roller skating that's just so nostalgic. It's a time when you were young and carefree, and you were skating with your friends. It's a time when you were young and carefree, and you were skating with your friends. It's a time when you were young and carefree, and you were skating with your friends.

present day and at the new roller rink, there seem to be samples of the old roller rinks of yore. Video games like *RollerJam* and *RollerJam* are tucked in the corner, and machines, and 200 pairs of the retro four-wheeled, leather-er skates are ready to be rented. The paint's fresh; the skating surface is cement, not wooden flooring, a little bit different, dark and cavern-esque as opposed to circusy. The clientele is varied, split between older people in their early 20s.

cap, Director of Operations at Sports World, worked at this World roller rink during his adolescence. The idea of a rink began as a labour of love almost three years ago when he began the search for a good piece of real estate to open a business. The building that was eventually chosen for the rink was an old storage facility. It was a 10,000 sq ft space, complete with an open rafter which gave the rink an industrial feel. "I walked in and it would be perfect," recalls Pratap. "The right shape, good location, and we decided to make a go of it."

The music, (sadly on CDs, not retro vinyl), ranges from selections of the mid-'70s to the early '90s. *Madonna* and *Run-DMC* are staples. A group of girls skates around, holding hands and mouthing the words to some Tiffany song.

Pratap says their clientele right now is mostly centered around fundraisers, or birthday parties of either young kids or of kids a wee bit older, looking for a walk down memory lane. "We recently had someone come in and they threw a birthday party as a sort of recollection of when they were seven years old. Their real birthday was celebrating age 30." A lot of folks really get into it, wearing their old '80s togs, styling their hair in retro ways. It's easy to get swept away once you put those skates back on.

Back on the rink floor, the crowd seems to be mostly roller skate-fitted twenty-somethings, crashing into boards and trying to skate backwards. Pratap says that in the future, they are hoping to add *skateboard* and *roller derby* and eventually hold *roller hockey* tournaments, really expanding into the world of the wheel. Light and sound will be upgraded, the floor polyurethaned, more video

If you look carefully, just above the DJ booth is a worn out jean jacket swaying from the rafters, occasionally lit up by spot lights. On the back it says "MC Hawk", a reminder of Pratap's old position as a music master at the old Sports World. "People from ten, 15 years ago come in and either recognize the jacket or me. It says a lot about how long people have been waiting for this."

Roller Forever

As for my memorable trip, the song "Black Betty" by Ram Jam comes on and my friend asks if I want to race. I may not have the no-fear attitude and boundless energy I had when I was ten and last on roller skates, but I pick up the pace anyway, and laugh and scream as I weave around people and almost fly into the barrier. The lights start to come up and the last song is announced by the DJ. My feet and back hurt a little bit, I'm not as indestructible as I once was. The roller rink though, it bounced back in good shape, and hopefully it's here to stay.

the box office. However, it does escalate the popularity of roller skating ten-fold and gets the music of the Electric Light Orchestra stuck in people's heads.

1968 – Roller Derby, previously a popular stadium sport, is brought to television and the violent races on banked rink surfaces become even more in demand. Not only do skaters have to contend with vicious competitors, but hazards like the alligator pit.

1993 – Rollerblade Inc. is formed and "rollerblading" becomes a new verb in the American lexicon.

1997 – Heather Graham, as the character Roller Girl, does not take off her roller skates in the movie *Boogie Nights*, not even to shoot porn or kick at another character.

1998 – *RollerJam*, an attempt to revitalize the roller derbies of the past, tanks and is cancelled within two years. It's a waste of millions of dollars on a show considered to be "in poor taste" by many, due to its excessive violence and terrible costuming and sets.

2002 – In the movie *Austin Powers 3: International Man of Mystery*, Mike Myers plays Goldmember, a roller rink-owning character famous for his gold lame outfit, eating his own skin and, naturally, his roller skates.

PRESENT DAY – Roller skates are coveted archaic tools of the past found in vintage stores or your grandma's basement.



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts & Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what's happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

Blue/Orange

Tuesday, 20 January—15 February
The Citadel



This edge-of-your-seat thriller features two psychiatrists—a neo-modern first-year doctor and his uptight supervisor—battling it out in a mental ward over the fate of an unsuspecting patient. As the two experts argue over whose diagnosis is superior, the concept of “sanity” is evidently blurred as the audience is left alone to judge who the real nutcase really is. It's showing at the Citadel for a month, so if you've got a hankering for some crazies there's no excuse to miss out on this play.

BSA Charity Fashion Show

Saturday, 24 January
The Royal Glenora Club



If the posters tacked up around campus haven't caught your attention, listen up! This weekend marks the ninth anniversary of the most talked about yearly business event. Put on by the Business Students Association, the fashion show features a multi-course dinner, keynote speakers and runway action, with all profits from ticket sales going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. If anything, it's a chance for you to borrow your dad's suit/mom's hosiery and shake it up at the post-dinner dance for a good cause.

Marble Engine

with Fade Blue Afterglow
Saturday, 24 January
Red's

For those of you in this town who claim that the Edmonton music scene has gone stale, might we suggest you try out some of this town's newest rock acts? This Edmonton quartet are relative newcomers to the scene, but with every show they play they are gaining the momentum of a freight train and quickly becoming a must-see live act.

The band's blend of musical influences cover everything from Tool to Queen, which come across in their highly original, powerful and energetic sound. A free show at Red's is the perfect opportunity to witness these up-and-comers as they dole out heaping helpings of sex for the soul and ears.

ASH SZKUDLAREK AND JASON NORMAN
Arts & Entertainment Radlors



Staind impale Barbie on a cross, sell eight million albums

Staind

with Nickelback and Three Days Grace
Tuesday, 27 January
Rexall Place

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Every band that succeeds in getting a hit single, millions of album sales and rock stardom can tell you that one moment when they knew they had gotten their big break, but what only Staind can tell you is how they almost lost it all over “satanic” cover art.

“He came storming up to us and threw our record across the bar yelling ‘What the fuck is this shit? Are you guys a bunch of fucking devil worshippers?’” recalls Aaron Lewis, Staind's lead singer and songwriter. That was what musical guru Fred Durst's reaction was to Staind's debut album's original cover art, which featured a Barbie impaled by a cross and a bible bleeding from a stab wound, images that Lewis is willing to admit are “pretty severe” to someone who hadn't met them. Normally, no one would really care what the slightly-round-around-the-waist Durst thought of their album art, but since he was the one who originally got the band a record deal, his little tantrum took an ironic turn. “We wasn't able to get us thrown off the tour, but

instead he sat by the stage for our entire set, just waiting to be able to say to somebody that they should have gotten rid of us. Afterwards, I hadn't even reached the bottom of the stage before he wanted to give us a record deal. He did a complete turnaround after seeing our show.”

Staind's music has had the same effect on many of their fans. Now, just after the release of their latest album, *14 Shades of Grey*, the once blacklisted, would-be devil worshippers have sold more than eight million records, garnered two number-one hits and enjoyed critical acclaim. Almost eleven years since Aaron Lewis and Staind bandmate Mike Mushok first met at a Christmas party in 1993, they've attracted a large fan base to their trademark brand of conflicted, introspective songs and have made regular appearances on the modern rock charts doing it.

Lewis comments that this album is, to date, the one which is the least self-centered, but assures that while some of his private wounds are healing, the band's music stays rooted in personal strife. “We do have some good times, but it doesn't come out in the music we write, except for maybe one or two songs and those songs are still not very positive,” he quickly notes. “They're just more positive than our songs have been before. I wrote a song for my daughter, and it's a nice warm song, but it's

coming from me not wanting my daughter to go through what I've been through. I don't know how to write happy songs.”

And what the singer has been through has truly become a part of Staind's music; Lewis acknowledges that many of the band's songs come from his childhood experiences, but remains guarded about going into detail. “There are certain parts of my past that I don't care to talk about. It's taken me 31 years to let those things go and I don't need to hash them up again here,” he remarks somewhat irately over the phone, but calmly continues to explain what motivates him to write songs. “Writing music has always been a healing process, though. I internalize everything that bugs the shit out of me and it ends up spilling out into our music.”

While the future of Staind's music may hinge on Lewis' unresolved personal anguish, for the time being they are riding high on the success of their new album and the continued popularity their music has displayed. Whether Staind will emerge from the darkness that has enveloped their music since its conception is something which only time will tell, but for someone who barely let out a laugh for the entire interview, *14 Shades of Grey* seems to describe the man as perfectly as the album. In fact, the only thing that might have made the album more fitting would be more angry, slashed-up Barbie imagery.

Q&A WITH THREE DAYS GRACE



The Gateway sat down with Three Days Grace lead singer, Adam Gontier, to pick his brain about what the band has been up to since breaking into the mainstream and being on the Nickelback/Staind bill. This is what he had to say over the phone from soundcheck in Vancouver.

Q: So, as the young punks of the tour, are Staind and Nickelback making you hault around their gear and polish their boots?

A: “Definitely not. We've all got really big crews, so we don't have to worry about them working us too hard.”

Q: What has been the most surprising part of breaking it big?

A: “I've opened my eyes to what the industry is about and it basically all comes down to money. I think I knew that before all this happened, but now I'm seeing it first hand and I've had a good look at how it works. The industry is focused on one song from a band that they think will make money; all they need is one hit single from an act and that's why there are a lot of bands that have one song and then disappear. I'd hoped that it was about the music, but I've learned now it's

really just about the money.”

Q: What's the strangest thing you've ever autographed for a fan?

A: “The weirdest thing was probably a prosthetic leg. We had a guy come up to us at the autograph table and he took off his leg, put it on the table and asked us to sign it. I guess he gets a lot of bands to sign it and I've heard of this happening to other people I know, so maybe there are a few people who do it. I don't really know, but it's pretty strange.”

Q: What was the first thing you went and bought or splurged on after you got a big record deal?

A: “We just bought a bunch of gear. For years we'd been playing with pretty crappy stuff, so we basically went on a shopping spree for new guitars and things.”



Buck 65 a storyteller at heart

Buck 65
with guests
Saturday, 25 January
Powerplant

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The more you talk to Buck 65, the one man behind the band bearing his moniker, the more it becomes apparent that he isn't so much a musician as a storyteller; he relates his tales in a gruff yet melodic voice, and, as he talks, he weaves poetic metaphors into even the simplest of responses.

Take, for instance, his recent time in Paris. "I got kind of wrapped up in those romantic notions about Paris ... It was one of the few places I've ever been that right away felt right to me. I loved it the second I got there," says Buck. "And it wasn't the food, the cinema, all the art, the girls or anything like that—it was just an intangible something. Kind of like when a brand new shoe already fits like an old one, you know?"

Buck begins to explain, with a little bit of country drawl in his voice, his love for early blues, especially the pre-war era talking blues that influenced his lyrics. "To me, nothing

is more interesting than my blues records right now. It's wildly exciting for a person who has the zest for words that I have," says Buck. "When you like words, that kind of spoken thing where you get to cram in lots of words and express lots and talk about it in a kind of unflowery kind of way—just telling it like it is—that's really appealing to me."

"I struggle a lot with guilt over people having to pay to come see me. I can't get over feeling like a goof."

BUCK 65

According to Buck, his penchant for storytelling runs in the family. "It's mostly a family thing," he explains. "It's just kind of been a thing in my family always, that when people get together there's always the one person who gets set up in the middle, telling the stories, holding everyone captivated all night and everyone laughs, screams and cries out."

"It's a little corny, but I hope I never outgrow it; I'm afraid I might. But

[right now] I love it because it's fun. I like the idea of words kind of being this puzzle, and seeing how they can be taken apart and fit back together," he adds.

Anyone who has been to a Buck 65 show before knows that while you can expect a night filled with storytelling, you can also expect a little extra treat—last time he came through the Powerplant, for instance, he handed out cookies. When asked about this tendency towards giveaways, Buck lets his more timid nature shine through.

"I struggle a lot with guilt over people having to pay to come see me. I can't get over feeling like a goof," Buck points out. "I'm like, 'What the hell, I'm not worth ten bucks,' so I've got to give these people something back to make them feel like they got their money's worth. I'm highly, highly insecure."

That may come as a surprise, considering his recent signing to major label Warner Music, but he justifies his insecurity somewhat. "I certainly have all the reinforcement I need everyday. I can't get a woman or anything," he laughs. "It probably really has a lot to do with that: make that the headline. Help me out, for crying out loud."

THE GATEWAY

WE WILL ROCK YOU

185

SuB Titles

1020

C+

Love That Boy no Mandy Moore blockbuster

Love That Boy

Starring Nadia Litz, Adrian Dixon and Nikki Barnett
Directed by Andrea Dorfman
Opens Thursday, 23 January
The Princess Theatre

ASH SZKULIAREK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

At first glance, *Love That Boy* seems to be one of those romantic comedies: that mid-summer blockbuster that you swore you wouldn't pay 13 bucks to see, only to have the glare from its shiny promotional poster tempt you into standing in line for tickets.

The tale—similar to that of a Mandy Moore blockbuster—tells the story of Phoebe, a 21-year-old over-achieving college student whose life is completely dominated by her "to-do before graduation" list. Although the to-dos—which include foraging for edible plant life, visiting an oil rig, and finding inner peace—are noble, Phoebe's laid-back housemate Robin is less than impressed with the way the list controls both of their lives. Her solution? Bluntly telling Phoebe that she's socially inept and suggesting a much-needed addition to the list: a boyfriend.

Not wanting to turn down a challenge nor have her list be unfulfilled, Phoebe embarks on a bitter-sweet quest to reel in a grad date. After forcing herself to flirt with creepy gardeners and circus-bound slackers, she stumbles upon a cute classmate who she labels her "boyfriend" during a rather boring first date. The demise of this "relationship" causes Phoebe to forget about boys altogether, until she unintentionally falls in love with her 14-year-old neighbour, Frazer.

Needless to say, *Love That Boy* makes the old saying "don't judge a book by its cover" ring true. Not only is it atypical of most teenage melodramas, but the all-Canadian cast is a breath of fresh air. Nadia Litz, named one of "25 Canadians under 25 to watch for in the new millennium" delivers an effortless, yet convincing performance as the oddball Phoebe, and seamlessly delivers her lines as though not even aware of the camera, while Adrian Dixon delivers his "boy next door" character with the flair of a natural-born actor.

Set against the colourful backdrop of suburban Canadiana, Phoebe's ill-fated journey into the land of love is accented with music from Juno-nominated Mike O'Neill, who uses



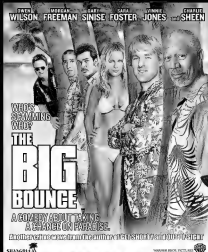
Love That Boy as an opportunity to blend together just enough tear-jerking rock ballads and garage band anthems to accentuate the film's emotions and form his first full-length soundtrack.

The key to really enjoying this film is to enjoy its quality, as opposed to its self-promoting features (Mandy Moore, anyone?) and budget. While *Love That Boy* is a locally-shot grassroots film directed by a lesser-known filmmaker, these features, along with its small hometown cast, do nothing to diminish the audience's viewing pleasure.

719
Optical1018
C+

FREE STUFF

THE GATEWAY WANTS TO SEND YOU TO SEE...



The Big Bounce is a comedy caper based on the novel by legendary crime writer Elmore Leonard (*Out of Sight*, *Get Shorty*, *Jackie Brown*). Owen Wilson plays Jack Ryan, a likeable drifter whose talents lie just outside the law. Hoping a change of scenery will bring him luck, Jack heads for Hawaii. There, on the exotic North Shore of Oahu, he soon discovers that whether he is looking for a new con or a little romance, temptation is everywhere. Soon, his future seems uncertain as what unfolds is either the perfect score, or the perfect setup. For the love, for the money, for the rush... it's *The Big Bounce*. For your chance to score a double guest pass to a special screening of *The Big Bounce* on Wednesday, 28 January drop by the Gateway office any time. Thursday. Opens in theatres Friday, 30 January.

164

CUE



SHAWN BENROW

DJs do battle for Edmonton's
electronica sceneNeal K Profile
Futureshock '04

Thursday, 29 January
Escape Ultra Lounge
Saturday, 31 January
Y Afterhours

JEREMY SHRAGGE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

By all rights, Edmonton is a black hole for electronic dance music. It's a frigid, lifeless vacuum from which neither sound nor light are able to escape. Consider for a moment that the capital of Alberta, with over 800,000 inhabitants, is without a single, decent late-night club. In contrast, there are towns in England with less than a quarter of Edmonton's population (Bournemouth, for instance) that can boast superclubs. To exacerbate matters, Edmonton's commercial radio has rejected the electronic medium en masse.

Nevertheless, thanks to enthusiastic supporters, dedicated promoters, independent media and ace DJs, the City of Champions can still claim an energetic—albeit small—dance music community. "You still see people that are out there every week going out to whatever event that they can just go to for the sake of supporting the scene," says local Techno DJ Neal K. "They're out there having a good time, and they're out there supporting the small

DJs, the big DJs; [they're supporting] everyone."

Since playing his first party back in 1997 in Spruce Grove, Neal K (Neal Kishor) has climbed the ladder to become one of the top names in electronica in Alberta. Besides co-hosting "Technological," CJRS's Tuesday night techno/progressive house show, the 29-year-old DJ and producer has played shows as far afield as Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Sacramento, California, the latter of which, he says, was a proper night out. "The biggest party I've ever done so far was in Sacramento, which was, for them, small, but for me I think \$200 people. So that was a little intense. But it was fun," he recollects fondly.

Next week, Kishor's life will get slightly more interesting when he opens for one of the top DJs in the world, BBC Radio One's Judge Jules, and then 48 hours afterwards headlines the city's first big party of the new year: Futureshock '04. Kishor will be teaming up with CJRS's progressive house guru David Stone to provide the pregame entertainment for the Judge's eagerly-anticipated show. Two days later at Y Afterhours, he goes toe-to-toe against one of the finest techno performers in Western Canada: Tryptomene (Rob Clarke; co-owner of Whyte Avenue's electronica oriented Foosh Audio and Apparel).

He explains that while last year's

inaugural Futureshock was a true "battle of the DJs," with auditions and an eventual winner (DJ Lego), the party's sophomore edition will have a different format. "There is no real DJ competition, but it's basically a battle—like a friendly battle—just to get some DJs from out of town and even locals to get together and just show their stuff. They're tagged up with DJs that play the same genre of music, like hard house, hard trance, psychedelic trance, funky house and techno, which is what I'm playing," he says.

As for the matches or performers he is most highly anticipating, Kishor, who moonlights as a sales associate at Foosh, is quick to identify stalwarts of the local club and party scene. "I would definitely be looking for David Stone versus Gary Chung Swets, who is making her return after a lengthy absence which will be great; she plays breaks. Erin Eden, Luke Morrison, and DTDR [versus] MD—those are the guys that I would really think are going to have a really, really good time," he predicts.

Unlike with his must-see list, Kishor is not nearly as forthcoming with a prediction for his battle with Tryptomene. "Oh, I can't choose. He's my mentor. He's my mentor and best friend, so I can't choose," he demurs. "Plus I kind of like my job, so I really shouldn't say anything."

beats with more of an emphasis on the hard drum beat. Faster and more aggressive when it wants to be.
Local Reps: Hands down DJ Tryptomene, my mentor.
Internationally: No contest. Mistress Barbra and Chris Liberator.

Genre: Trance
Low Down: Definitely a style that is recognized throughout the world. Usually faster 4/4 beats with a lot of melody. Huge anthem-like buildups that will hype the crowd. Subgenres include progressive trance/house, tech-trance. I still like playing this sometimes, but I'd leave this to the professionals of our city.
Local Reps: Dave Stone and DTDR
Internationally: Tiesto, Ferry Corsten and, my favourite, Sandra Collins.

Genre: Hard Trance
Low Down: Fast and aggressive 4/4 music again with many samples. Features long-buildups and great melody.
Local Reps: DTDR and Kristoff.
Internationally: Anne Savage, BK and Tidy Boys.

ELECTRONICA 101
WITH DJ NEAL K

DJ Neal K dishes out the basics on what exactly all those electronica genres entail and gives you the low-down on which local spinners to look out for, as well as their international counterparts.



ASHLEY JENSEN

Genre: Breaks
Low Down: Funky or New Skool; it features many samples from old movies. Funky breaks has more of a '70s funk feel to it.
Local Rep: Without a doubt DJ Sweetz.
Internationally: Pumps DJs.

Genre: Funky House
Low Down: 4/4 beats, heavily sampled with music from the disco era, sometimes featuring vocals. Definitely happier sounding.
Local Rep: DJ Tripwired.
Internationally: Bad Boy Bill.

Genre: House
Low Down: Still featuring a 4/4 beat, but more along the lines of mixing lighter techno with some melody.
Local Reps: Erin Eden and Brian Pasmore
Internationally: Jay Tripwire. He's from Vancouver actually, but he's pioneered his sound of tech house throughout the globe. I play a lot of his stuff.

Genre: Techno
Low Down: What I play. Harder 4/4

Culkin still lost in New York

Party Monster

Starring Macaulay Culkin, Seth Green and Chloe Sevigny
Directed by Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato
Opens Thursday, 23 January
Metro Cinema

LEAH COLLINS
Features Editor

Twelve years after finding himself *Home Alone* for the second time, poor lil' Macaulay Culkin is still lost in New York. He may have ditched the bumbling bandits and creepy pigeon ladies long ago, but in *Party Monster*, Culkin's role as Michael Alig (a convicted murderer and self-described "original club kid") has him playing what director Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato make out to be another "little boy lost."

Alig was a typical example of the clichéd New York success story. Always feeling "different," he decided to break out of America's Midwest and realize his boyhood dreams in New York City. And considering Alig's dream was to live life like one endless, sweaty Halloween disco party and become famous just for being famous, he is more or less a success. Alig allegedly reigned over the city's post-disco/pre-rave club culture of the late '80s and early '90s, until drug addiction and the monstrous murder of his live-in drug dealer Angel Melendez moved the party to prison.

But *Party Monster* doesn't deal with the dreadful details of Melendez's brutal death (the incident includes a hammer and an injection of Drano) until the frantic conclusion, and instead lingers at Alig's near nine-year-



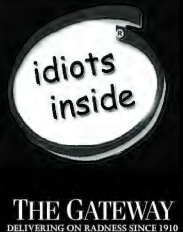
long dance party. It's just a shame that for a gent who aimed to be Warhol's successor, his parties are such a crying bore. There are chaotic impromptu revelries in burger restaurants and big rig trucks, and an endless parade of astonishingly lavish club couture (designed by Michael Williams, *Moulin Rouge*). The problem is there are just too many flashy sequences, and the film, which was shot in ugly digital, makes the purportedly wild and fabulous party life feel oddly commonplace. Culkin remarks in a shallowly reworked quote of William Blake, "The road of excess leads to fabulousness." Here, unfortunately, it just leads to boredom.

But perhaps the true fault of *Party Monster*'s plot is in its unskilled host: Culkin was never a particularly good actor, and most likely coasted through the *Good Sons* and *Richie Riches* of his résumé on the merit of bushy-tailed youth and his proficiency at maiming "zany" burglars. But now that his appeal has been reduced to

a guilty shudder of early '90s nostalgia, there's little blinding the audience from seeing how horrifically superficial Culkin's performance is. The film constantly tells us that Alig is an enormously charismatic and dazzling character, only to let us down with the actual article—a perpetually sneering, one-note, little slip of a girly boy.

Watching the limp-wristed posturing and high-voiced witticisms being disaffectedly parroted by Culkin and Seth Green—who plays Alig's friend and mentor, James St James during the opening of the movie—it's hard not to think that this movie isn't just some mediocre SNL sketch. Culkin's paper doll of a character certainly doesn't merit any of the "lost boy" sympathy the filmmakers wish to give him. It's very difficult to believe all this "tragic" character needed was love when he shows no signs of being capable of anything other than coordinating lecherousness with platform sneakers. Sadly, the audience will really only be concerned about when this party is going to end.

just as brand names like RCA, BMW and Uncle Joe's Rectum-Burning Hot Sauce have come to represent quality, so too has the Gateway earned itself notoriety as a name that stands for pure awesome. Diligently we strive forward, ever searching for new ways to make poop jokes funny, in our commitment to you, our cherished clients. But even as amazingly brilliant as we are on our own, there is one thing that would make us better: you. Yes, you! Help us to achieve our primary action plan of making wicked newspapers by joining our staff of volunteers and we promise the deliverable will totally increase your bottom line of coolness.



152

Print Centre

New film no cookie cutter thriller

Seijun Suzuki returns with a truly terrifying tale of a Japanese Killers' Guild

Pistol Opera

Starring Mokiko Esumi, Sayoko Yamaguchi and Kan Hanae
Directed by Seijun Suzuki
Opens Thursday, 23 January
Metro Cinema

JASON NORMAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Coming soon to a theatre near you, from the country that brought you sushi, dragon boats, and taking your shoes off before entering a room: *Pistol Opera*—a film about death and, more specifically, about those who do the killing. At the tender age of 78, legendary Japanese filmmaker Seijun Suzuki's moviemaking style is still as avant-garde as ever, as he reveals yet another film in the twisted Japanese-horror genre that he practically invented.

The film follows Miyuki, nicknamed the Stray Cat—a stylishly sexy and, more importantly, devastatingly lethal killer—who is ranked number three in a Killers' Guild and ambitiously attempting to climb higher. She engages in a rather simple murder, but something goes wrong the next day and another member of the Killers' Guild, the fourth-ranked "Teacher," threatens to expose her. While disposing of the Teacher after a very awkward but nevertheless original chase scene, Stray Cat notices a very curious and nervous little girl has seen her. Normally, Stray Cat would blow the little girl away without so much as a blink, but something is different about her, and that a very precarious relationship blossoms. From here, the audience is introduced

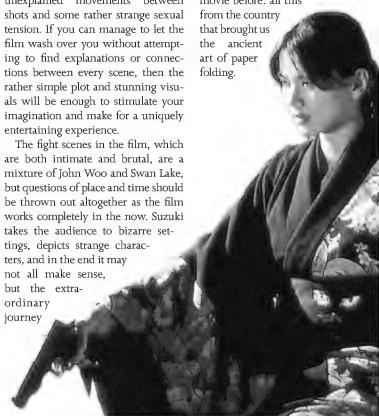
to many more of the colourful and deadly characters of the Killers' Guild, while Miyuki hunts for the identity of the number one of the Killers' Guild in order to destroy him, all the while quelling her own instincts to dispose of the little girl that haunts her every action.

The film's relationship with its audience is one as uncertain as Stray Cat's rapport with the little girl. *Pistol Opera* embraces the viewer with its sharp, colourful visuals and weird characters, but also keeps us at arm's length with unexplained movements between shots and some rather strange sexual tension. If you can manage to let the film wash over you without attempting to find explanations or connections between every scene, then the rather simple plot and stunning visuals will be enough to stimulate your imagination and make for a uniquely entertaining experience.

The fight scenes in the film, which are both intimate and brutal, are a mixture of John Woo and Swan Lake, but questions of place and time should be thrown out altogether as the film works completely in the now. Suzuki takes the audience to bizarre settings, depicts strange characters, and in the end it may not all make sense, but the extraordinary journey

you're taken on is well worth the ride. One of the greatest strengths of the movie is its ability to bring the nightmares of death alive on screen, and as it explores the terrors and turmoil of a killing cult, you can't help but be drawn into the excitement and fear.

Besides the visually exhausting and slightly confusing portions of *Pistol Opera*, it is a highly exciting movie that places itself high above the cookie cutter "thrillers" that we're so used to. It will definitely make you see, hear, and feel things you haven't from a movie before: all this from the country that brought us the ancient art of paper folding.



992

Bonavista

Local teens make \$50 album, chart across the country

All Purpose Voltage
Heres stumble onto
success while still in
high school

All Purpose Voltage Heroes

with Reverie Sound Revue and
Champion Alberta
Friday, 23 January
New City

KRIS DEREZANSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Every teenager that has ever locked themselves away in their bedroom and cranked their stereo to eleven, playing rebellious punk-rock songs with tons of obscenities just to let their parents know how angry they are has probably dreamed about having their own band some day. The All Purpose Voltage Heroes are living just that dream.

"It was pretty much my brother [singer Dan Poole] who one day decided to buy a bunch of really crappy keyboards," recalls keyboardist Zack Poole on the Voltage Heroes' basement formation. "We weren't involved in the music scene at all and we didn't care about music at all," explains Kevin Cherney, the band's other keyboardist. "It seems that we're doing something fairly different, but we didn't set out to do anything different, we were just like, 'let's make a keyboard band.'" With little to no experience the trio created simple tunes while learning their instruments,

and the local favourite was born.

Since then, the Voltage Heroes have released an album, toured BC and attained a cult following in Edmonton, which is pretty impressive considering two of the members are still in high school. "We just went to Victoria and Vancouver and we're planning to go out again over Spring Break," says Cherney, explaining how their latest trip to BC was a mixed bag where some of their shows garnered great reactions, while others fell a little flat. "In Victoria the reaction [to us] was poor. I heard someone say 'that was terrible' at the end of our set."

"We weren't involved in the music scene at all and we didn't care about music at all. It seems that we're doing something fairly different, but we didn't set out to do anything different."

KEVIN CHERNEY

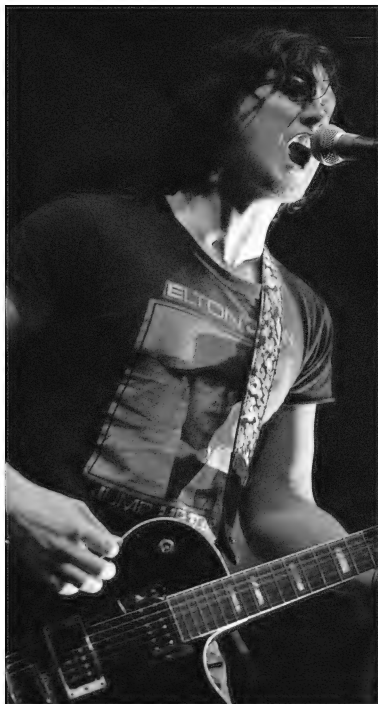
But a few naysayers won't dismiss the fact that the band's debut album, *Decorate Your Monster Shirt*, which was recorded live in the Poole basement for about fifty bucks, has broken through on to college and national radio. "We're charting across the country: last week we charted in Hamilton and [we're also] charting in Victoria and Toronto,"

says Cherney, somewhat excitedly. "We love [CJRR] because we're still on the charts and we've been on the top thirty for ten or eleven weeks."

All that media support has led the Voltage Heroes to consider the possibility of releasing their follow-up on a label. "We're going to record some songs, send them out and see if we get any good responses from that," explains Cherney. "There's not much for local labels, which is sad. I don't know if we'd fit on Method Records, the politically-minded label where locals the Wolfnote and Nevertheless reside."

Still, a new album remains imminent for summer release and the band is already previewing many of their new songs live. "We think our new stuff is much better, so it's not worth playing our old stuff, but we're going to start buckling down and writing new songs to leave some element of surprise for our next album," Cherney says.

But Cherney explains the band is also looking for a little constructive criticism from both their fans and opponents to help them evolve. "I want to hear some people who don't like us," he laughs. "We need people to tell us what's wrong with us because we were expecting no one to really like us, but now no one is responding poorly. It's hard to improve when people don't tell us what is wrong." If searching for critics is the biggest challenge for the All Purpose Voltage Heroes they must be doing something right. Not bad for a band known to wear grass skirts on stage and write songs about Michael Jackson's "Moonwalker."



JAMES JOHNSON

EVE6 They got their name from *The X-files* and they also played a show Tuesday.

418

Ombud service

226

PP-Deweys

SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 22 January, 2004

THE PEP RALLY

Swimming

Those lucky ducks on the swimming team, whether they be **Bears** or **Pandas**, travel down the Yellowhead (or possibly down Highway 2), onto the Trans-Canada Highway, then a ferry-ride across to Victoria to show off their huge breaststrokes in the Canada West championships this weekend. The tight-sleeved masters of marine sports will be rocking it aquatic style from Friday to Sunday.

Basketball

The **Pandas** (2-10), who've been known to break it off some, are in town this weekend to remind the Calgary Dinos why they make better petroleum products than basketball players. Both games—that would be Friday and Saturday for those of you who have never come into contact with University sports before—are at 6:30pm in the Main Gym, and both games promise a high degree of rock.

Sweet hot damn! This weekend the **Bears** (9-3) are also shaking the hardwood, or possibly some better metaphor for playing basketball. In case you haven't figured this out by now, due to budget constraints, both our men's and women's team almost always play the same opponent every weekend, so, surprise, surprise, the Bears also play the Dinos. Crazy, huh? Indeed. Right, anyway, their games go at 8:15pm in the Main Gym, both Friday and Saturday, as explained above in the Pandas section, except that the time is different. This is because two games going on at once would be absolute madness. Madness I say!

Hockey

Finally back in action, calling the **Bears** (17-0-1) game, is big bad Bobby Stauffer, who'll be teaching the University of Manitoba's radio announcer Jon Rempel how to call a Bears' win. You can catch Bob with chum Scott Zerr on **CISR FM88** at 6pm Friday, and again at 6pm Saturday night. Also, in an odd twist, the Bears are playing the University of Manitoba Bisons at the same time both of these nights. Bizarre.

La **Pandas** (14-0-0)—whose games have started to resemble the way a killer whale playfully tosses a seal into the air several times before tearing it apart and eating its intestines in front of its poor little seal family—head down to the University of Lethbridge for two games with the Pronghorns this weekend. You can catch the first one Friday at 7pm, and, if there's anything left of the Pronghorns, the second one will go Saturday at the same time.

Volleyball

If you've ever wanted to witness a kill, but don't have the intestinal fortitude for hunting or the contempt-for-man to go to Reno and watch someone die, then **Bears** (10-2) volleyball might just be for you. They'll be making kills, and blocks, and other assorted volleyball lingo happen in Saskatchewan this weekend, when they take on the Huskies. Both games, that would be Friday and Saturday for those of you who just skipped right to the volleyball section, are at 8pm in Saskatoon.

Who rocks the body that rocks the body? The **Pandas** (10-2) that's who. They rock the body so hard, they're actually considering changing their name to the University of Alberta Body Rockers. I swear! They also go to Saskatchewan, to play the Huskies, except at 6:15pm both days.

Pardon my zinger!

Joel: You have to change this final thing.
Me: I don't have anymore ideas though.
Joel: Just finish it with a zinger.

Me: Alright, your Morn sucks as much as the Flames.
Badoom-ching!

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Almost tapped out

Pandas look to turn season around

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Despite their abysmal 2-10 record to start the season, coach Trix Baker's Pandas basketball team have yet to give up on their playoff hopes. Bouncing back from their two losses last weekend on their Manitoba road trip against the Winnipeg Wesmen and the Manitoba Bisons, the team looks for their season to begin anew this weekend against provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos.

Many positives came out of the trip to Manitoba, as the Pandas lost by no more than three points in each of the decisions, including an 87-85 loss to the Manitoba Bisons—their first 80-plus performance all season. "I thought last weekend was probably the best two games we've put together as a team," said Baker. "It's been a long time since we put together 80 points and still lost the game."

But the losses haven't deterred the team from shooting for the playoffs. "We still have six games against teams in our division, so our destiny is still in our own hands," remarked Baker on her team's playoff chances. "If we can win all of our next games, we can still make playoffs, and if we play like we did against Winnipeg and Manitoba, then we'll beat those teams."

The Pandas schedule down the stretch is favourable: their next two games are against Calgary, who already gave Alberta one of their two wins this season. The following week, they play bottom-dwelling Trinity Western, along with Simon Fraser who lost by larger margins on their own Manitoba road trip earlier this season. Finally, two road trips will end their season in Saskatchewan and in Lethbridge. Saskatchewan (as well as Calgary and Simon Fraser) holds one of the last attainable playoff spots. The season finishes in Lethbridge with the Pronghorns, who provided the other Pandas with this season.

Finishing on the road may be what the team needs, as Baker was impressed with the team's road-play of late. "I think we've probably played better on the road than we have at home,"



UNRESTRAINED RAGE Pandas guard Cristy Allen and her team are dissatisfied with start to season.

grinned Baker. "I thought about giving up all my Main Gym time to the volleyball team and practicing in the Education gym."

But in the meantime, the Pandas will have to bring their away-game style home in order to make the playoffs. "We have to keep plugging along," said Baker. "Last weekend I thought we were the best 2-10 team in the country."

"We're a team that's not used to losing," she adds. "2-10 is not somewhere we've been for a long time. Some of the girls struggled with that, but now they're just focusing on what they need to do to win, and we saw that last weekend."

See the Pandas basketball destiny unfold, when the Calgary matches begin at 6:30pm on both Friday and Saturday in the Main Gym.

Upcoming road trip vital for Alberta volleyballers

RYAN OHASHI
Sports Writer

The Bears and Pandas will both have slightly different agendas this weekend, but similar objectives as both look for a pair of wins against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

For the second-ranked Pandas, the road trip will give them a chance to regroup after splitting a pair of games with top-ranked Calgary at home this past weekend, as they take on the last-place Huskies.

For the top-ranked Bears, this weekend could prove to be one of the most challenging of the

season as they take on the red hot No. 3 Huskies in their own gym. The last time these two teams met was 4 January, when the Huskies barely edged out a 3-2 win in the championship match of the Brian Mallard Invitational Tournament on this weekend's court. However, with only four weekends left to play in the regular season and the battle about the rankings getting tighter every day this series with the Huskies on their own court could prove to be vital to the Bears bid to remain number one in the country.

"I think it's the biggest weekend of ours for the rest of the year. We've got to get two wins to hold our number-one ranking," said Bears right side Jeremy King. "It's going to be huge, especially in their own gym; Saskatchewan loves to play at home so we've got to come out firing."

The Huskies, who haven't lost since the weekend of 23 November will look to continue their winning ways. "They're good and have a tradition of being good, but now they're on a roll, and they've got a good team so it'll be a tough match," said Bears setter Brock Daviduk.

"The pressure is building for sure, and guys are getting pretty pumped up, it's the road to nationals, so every game is gonna be tough from here on in," remarks Alberta co-captain power Aaron Schulha.

For the Pandas they look to get the job done against a steadily improving Saskatchewan team. "They're starting to play really well in the second half. They were 0-8 and won their first match last night. They took Calgary to five games both nights when they played when they first weekend back so it seems like they're really stepping up and playing well, so we'll have to focus," concluded Pandas season-kills-leader Tawana Wardlaw.



IF PETE ROSE PLAYED VOLLEYBALL... Both the Bears and Pandas leap into action in Saskatchewan.

123

Athletic and Rec

Video montage: sports' saviour

Marketed posturing may be 'bad' for sports, but at least it's fun

RYAN
OHASHISports
Commentary

You sports fans all know the feeling: there you are, sitting at home, watching TV and Chris Berman has just finished his latest spewing of "HOW-BOUT-DEM-CA-BOYS?!" on *NFL Primetime*, when suddenly your screen drops into widescreen and the little ESPN HD symbol floats into view. Immediately, you are bombarded with a myriad of NFL Films voiceovers, full throttle game film and a seizure-inducing amount of flashing light and text.

The music-video montage has taken over the sports media industry. Taking a page from a twisted combination of various skateboarding- and wrestling-type videos, the networks have embraced the formatted combination of music and media to the point where we now have a movie-like teaser for everything from NBC's *Gravity Games* to the ESPN presentation of the *World Series of Poker*. The continued blurring of the lines between sports and entertainment has forced a hybrid of fan to emerge. Even though there will always be sports purists in the world, in the end, like fictional Arizona Cardinal wideout Rod Tidwell (Cuba Gooding Jr) suggests in the film *Jerry McGuire*, "We want him to dance."

LeBron James hanging off the rim, Joe Horn calling his mom, Ray Lewis giving his "are my dogs in tha house?" speech to his barking defensive teammates, Terrell Owens signing a football that he'd just caught for a TD: it's the little things that the new viewer wants to see, all of which is typified by that two minutes of music-videosque mayhem. Despite its hyper-marketed and over-the-top nature, it's appealing to the

new viewer.

It's no longer just the sport itself, but instead the presentation of the sport that matters. Whether it's the idea of being closer to the action through net-cams or the Visa sky-cam, the newest hybrid of sports fan wants to view absolutely everything, including all the juicy little details on and slightly off the playing field. They want to see what Matt Hasselbeck's wife is doing in the stands. They believe that the NCAA Final Four isn't truly over until they play a montage containing the song, "One Shining Moment." And, most of all, they believe in the real-life drama of sport, even if it needs to be somewhat embellished. So what's so wrong with that?

After all, if a guy just risked his career to go over the middle and get five years taken off his life by a 260-pound linebacker, then let the man dance

It seems that traditional sport needs to begin to evolve, despite the fact that it may seem foolish and it may pander to fans, the relative success of the newer and highly marketed sports such as the X-Games, Shamball and the WWE can't be completely ignored. All of which spend more time building and hyping their product with video segments rather than just showing the actual 'game.'

Yes, there is something sickening about the heritage and grandeur of the game being compiled into commercial-sized bits of foreplay. But to reference an old adage: isn't the anticipation of something sometimes a lot better than the actual act? As base as it may seem, I still believe there's a place in sport for the entertainer. After all, if a guy just risked his career to go over the middle and get five years taken off his life by a 260-pound linebacker, then let the man dance.

775

SU - revolutionary Speakers Series



JUST LIKE THIS, EXCEPT INDOORS The Pandas take their game action indoor this weekend.

FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

Field hockey Pandas return to action, host indoor tournament

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

Three months after wrapping up their outdoor season, the Pandas are gearing up for an indoor field hockey tournament this weekend that they are confident will prove more successful than their fall campaign.

The tournament, which begins at noon Friday in the Butternut arena and runs until Sunday, will feature eight teams, including two split-squad teams from each of the Pandas and the Calgary Dinos. There'll also be an alumni squad from each school and a pair of club teams.

Alberta was 0-2-1 versus the Dinos in Canada West outdoor play in the fall, but Pandas head coach Carla Somerville is confident that her young teams will match up better in the indoor game.

"We have some young kids that'll have to get up to speed, and it'll be a pretty steep learning curve for a few of them," she said. "But we also have

some very strong indoor players, so we're actually pretty lucky with the mix that we have and the leaders that we have. It'll be a really good tournament for us and I'm expecting us to do very well."

Somerville is looking to fifth-year players like defenders Natalie Kubok and Tia Thomson to spark the Alberta teams this weekend. "Both have played a lot of indoor and excel at the indoor game, so we're looking for leadership and really strong play from them."

The indoor version of the game is played six-on-six with boards around the field, making it much more like ice hockey than the outdoor game. Somerville believes the modified game is more spectator-friendly than the traditional outdoor style. "People actually really like it," she said. "They can relate to it because the positioning is very similar to things that they're used to [in ice hockey]."

"It's a game that I truly believe you could market and sell here in North

America. It's a very fast game, there's lots of goals, and the goalkeepers are very active in the play. They're not stay-at-home keepers, they come out, rush the ball and rush the players."

As such, Somerville says she'll be counting on goaltender Sara Houlihan to quickly adapt to the different style. For her part, Houlihan says that she's looking forward to the challenge. "It's fun," she said. "The game's a lot quicker, so there's a lot more activity for me; I'm able to get out there and make more plays."

Somerville regrets that her squad won't face division rivals and perennial powerhouses UBC and Victoria during the indoor season. While the two teams ended up facing each other for the outdoor CIS championship, she feels that the Pandas would be better equipped to handle them indoors. "It's too bad that they're not here at this tournament, or that we didn't go to theirs because indoor is more of a power sport, and we're one of the best teams for that."

Battle of Alberta rematch for basketball Bears

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

After a weekend of smacking around the best competition Manitoba had to offer, the Golden Bears (9-3) are back on their home court to face the University of Calgary Dinos (8-4) this weekend. Last November in Calgary the two teams split the series, which included a 99-95 Bears overtime win in their first match up of the season.

The closeness of the season series reflects the depth of the two teams, according to Bears head coach Don Horwood. "They match up with us very well. We're almost exactly the same," said Horwood. "They have a guard very similar to Phil Scherer, another guard very similar to Mike Melnychuk, and a post player similar to Phil Sudol. There's not a lot to choose from between the two teams; it's going to come down to which team plays the best and who wants it the most."

Winners of their last six games, the Bears appear to have gotten progressively better with each victory. A consistent team effort has stood out recently, with the Bears usual contributors doing what they do best (Scherer, Sudol, Melnychuk, and guard Tyler Coston are all scoring in double digits), while the play of guard Tyson Jones and post players Brandon

Park and Richard Bates have been notable in recent games. Horwood points out that the improvement is on both ends of the floor. "We've tightened up our defense," said Horwood. "We're taking better care of the ball, certainly in the last six or seven games, we've been doing a good job." With the Bears arguably playing their best basketball of the season, Horwood anticipates a weekend of competitive basketball, and thinks that a couple of wins would really say something about

the recent strong play of his team. "The Dinos are a better test, because they're a better team," said Horwood. "We'll see how much we've improved this weekend."

The Golden Bears play the Dinos Friday and Saturday night in the main gym at 8:15pm. "It should be a great series," Horwood promises. "It should be great basketball, both teams have exciting players and I'm sure the intensity level will be quite high. I'm glad we're playing it here at home."



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

I GIVE UP, YOU TAKE HIM The Bears and guard Tyson Jones play this weekend.



GATEWAY
hooligan-esque since 1910

975

Health Centre

987

Orchesis

AWESOME ROOMMATE by Michael "awesome roommate" Winters



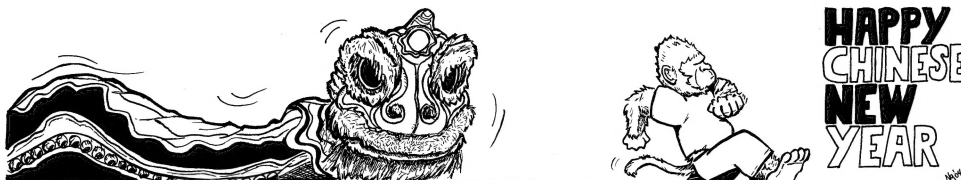
CARCINOMA by Lloyd Majeau



BLACKOUT by Chris Krause and Jen Koskela



COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



RANCID WIT by Dave Leriger

